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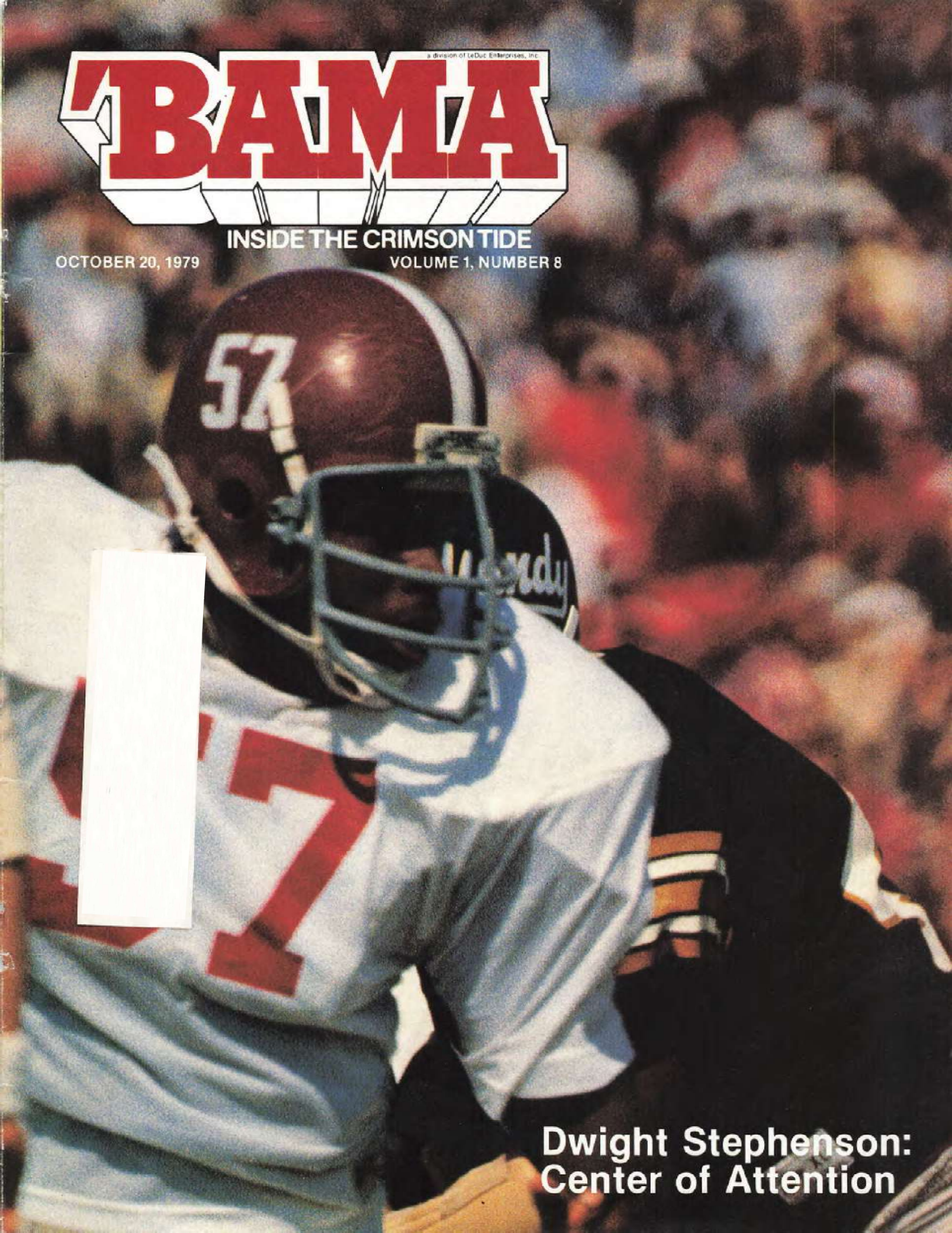
'BAMA

INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE

OCTOBER 20, 1979 VOLUME 1, NUMBER 8



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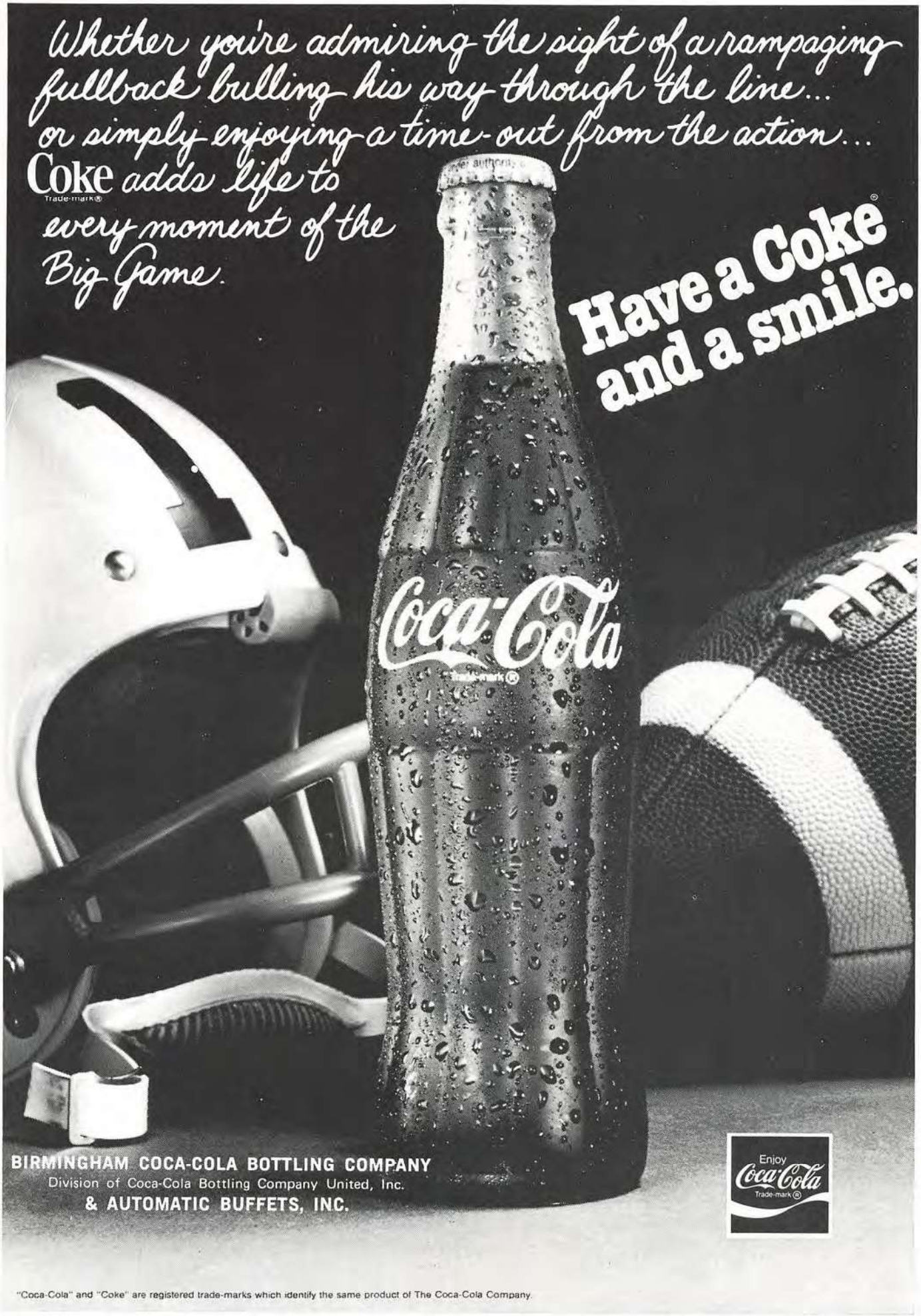
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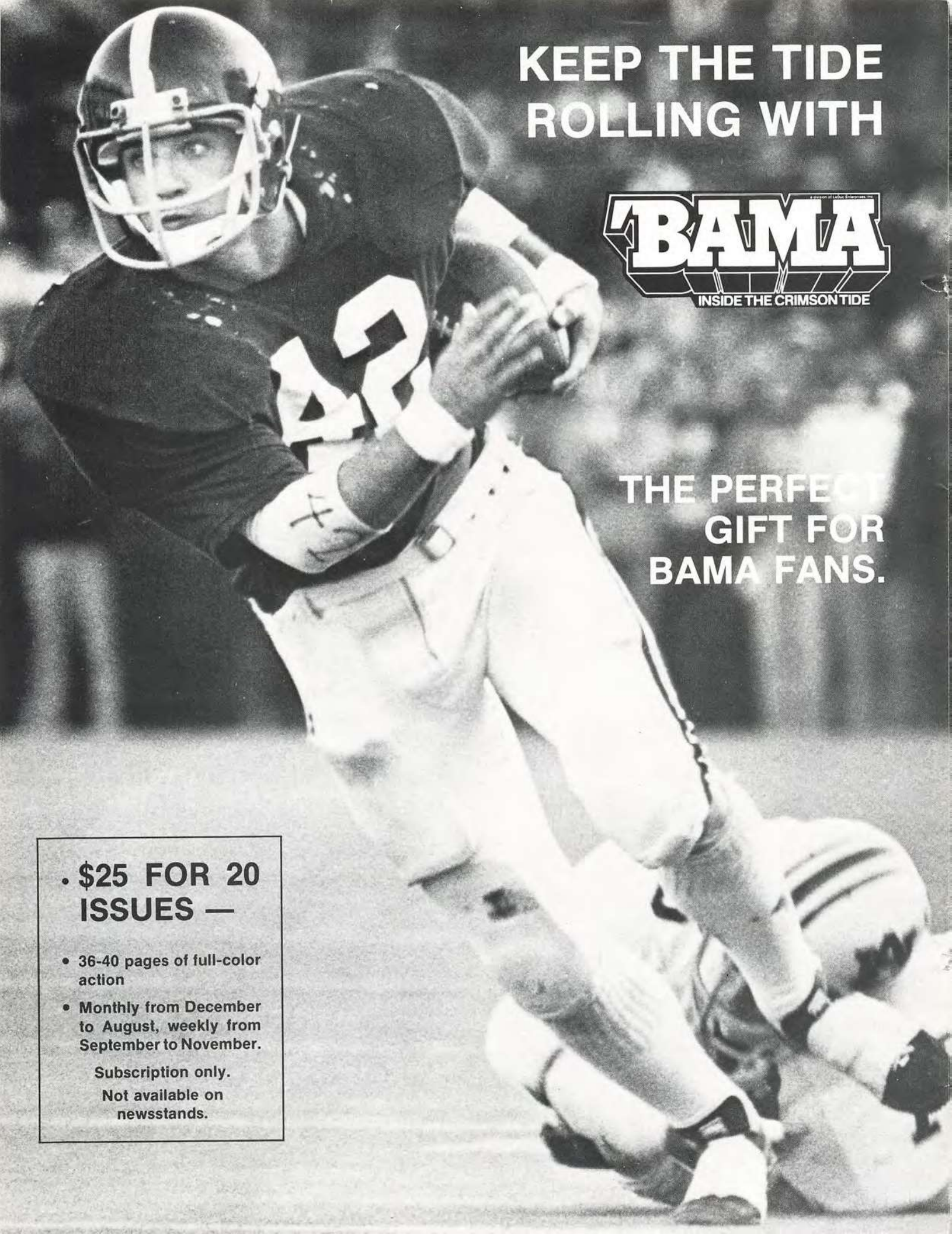
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—Photo by Spectrum-Southeast

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TIDE TAKING GIANT STEP TOWARDS NATIONAL TITLE

by Kirk McNair

To paraphrase coach Bryant, my limited vocabulary doesn't permit me to express how powerful the 1979 edition of the Alabama football team is.

To put Bama's 40-0 victory over Florida into perspective, consider that if Florida had scored seven points every time the Gators crossed midfield the score would have been 40-14. But if Florida had been given points for getting past the Alabama 45, it would still have been 40-0. The Gators ran only three plays in Alabama territory the entire game. Their best effort over midfield netted one yard. The other two plays with the snap in Bama territory lost eight and nine yards.

Alabama's fifth straight victory of the season, coupled with the great Stanford second half comeback that netted the Cardinals a 21-21 tie with Southern Cal, pushed the Tide into a much stronger position for successful retention of the national championship.

In addition to putting a blemish on the primary competition for No. 1, the chances go up for Bama having an opportunity to play for the national title on the field in a bowl game. Because of bowl tie-ups it would be impossible for Alabama to play Southern Cal in a battled of undefeateds for the national championship. However, the Tide could meet some of the other top contenders, notably Texas or Houston or Arkansas from the Southwest Conference in the Cotton Bowl or Nebraska from the Big Eight in the Orange Bowl.

It's early to be considering bowl possibilities, but Georgia's Saturday victory over LSU brings back the memory of last year's worry over a tie for the Southeastern Conference championship. Last year Auburn gave Bama help by tying Georgia and giving Alabama a chance to win the league championship and go against Penn State in the Sugar Bowl. This year it appears that Georgia has finally gotten its act together and once again only Auburn seems likely to be able to help Alabama in winning an outright league championship. While most Alabama fans would far prefer to go to New Orleans and the Sugar Bowl — particularly as the nation's No. 1 ranked team — it's not beyond the realm of possibility that Tide chances for the national title would be helped by Georgia tying for the SEC championship (and thereby being the SEC representative in the Sugar Bowl) and giving Bama the opportunity to go to the Orange or Cotton to meet the highest ranked team possible.

Of course, that all depends on the Crimson Tide going through its season undefeated. And about the only person who follows Bama closely who wouldn't consider that a distinct likelihood is coach Bryant.

The good news from Gainesville was that Alabama was awesome — make that AWESOME — in its biggest test of the year thus far. The bad news was that the Tide was badly crippled just as the latest greatest test arrives, the annual Tennessee bloodletting.

While the Gators had the look of an endangered species compared to Alabama Saturday, coach Charley Pell's team went down fighting. Florida didn't tackle particularly well, but the Gators passed hard licks. The result was about a dozen Tide wounded, some of them seriously. The most prominent Tider who will miss the

Alabama's Tommy Wilcox (15) joins Thomas Boyd in dropping Florida fullback Terry Williams after a one-yard gain (left). Bama backup quarterback Don Jacobs found the running room Saturday against the Gators (right) as he picked up a game-leading 122 yards on just seven carries, including this 73-yard scamper for a third quarter touchdown.

—Photo by Spectrum-Southeast

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Freshman punt return man Ken Coley (above) gets a block from E. J. Junior as he threads his way upfield against the Gators Saturday. David Hannah (below) gets an unusual handle on Florida quarterback Tyrone Young on this nine-yard sack.

—Photo by Spectrum-Southeast

Tennessee game is split end Keith Pugh. Pugh suffered a separated shoulder and will probably miss two or three games minimum. Oddly, Pugh's injury was a freak injury, not the result of one of the many Florida contacts. With the Tide backed up on its 18 yard line midway through the first quarter, Steadman Shealy lofted a perfect pass to Keith, who had a couple of steps on the defenders at midfield. Usually surehanded, Keith throught that he was going to have to dive for the ball. When he realized that he wasn't he had already overrun the ball and lost sight of it. Trying to recover and make the catch he fell to the turf, suffering the injury.

If there is one spot where Bama has a lack of depth it is split end. Alan Gray, who has been splitting time at quarterback and split end, will probably move to the starting spot at wide receiver against Tennessee.

If there is another spot that is depth poor for the Tide it is the defensive front. And that was another area hit by injuries against Florida. Starting noseguard Warren Lyles was injured on Florida's last offensive play of the game. Warren, who sprained a knee slightly, was only in the game because the Tide had run out of men to put at noseguard. There's a good chance he'll be back for the game against Tennessee Saturday.

Alabama went to Florida without backup defensive tackle Scott Homan and another backup, Joe Beazley, was injured against the Gators, as was backup noseguard Bob Cayavec. Additionally, backup tackle-noseguard Curtis McGriff is still hampered slightly by a back injury suffered against Georgia Tech in the opener.

The Alabama running backs and quarterbacks took most of the Florida licks and most admitted to soreness, but the only serious injury in that corps appeared to be a severe thigh bruise suffered by backup halfback Joe Jones.

All-SEC left guard Mike Brock missed over three quarters of the game when he suffered a hip pointer early in the contest. He'll probably be ready for Tennessee.

Alabama appears superior in the three phases of football — offense, defense and kicking. Against Florida Bama had a perfect blend of those ingredients. The Tide offense kept the football about twice as long as Florida; the Bama defense pitched its third shutout of the year; and kicking, kick coverage and kick returns all contributed greatly to Alabama success — as did a couple of non-kicks.

Unquestionably one of the most important plays in the game was one of the two non-kicks. Facing fourth down and eight at the Florida 34, coach Bryant sent short

punt man Don Jacobs (who is also a backup quarterback) into the game in punt formation. Florida, meanwhile, was substituting heavily, punt return specialists for defenders. The Gators ended up with only two defensive performers on the field and a total of only 10 men. Jacobs ran up from punt formation under center Barry Smith, who almost never plays except to snap on kicks. Jacobs took the ball around left end, followed a Billy Jackson block that took out two men, and went 25 yards to the Florida nine. Shealy took it in in two plays. Alabama had taken the quick whip hand.

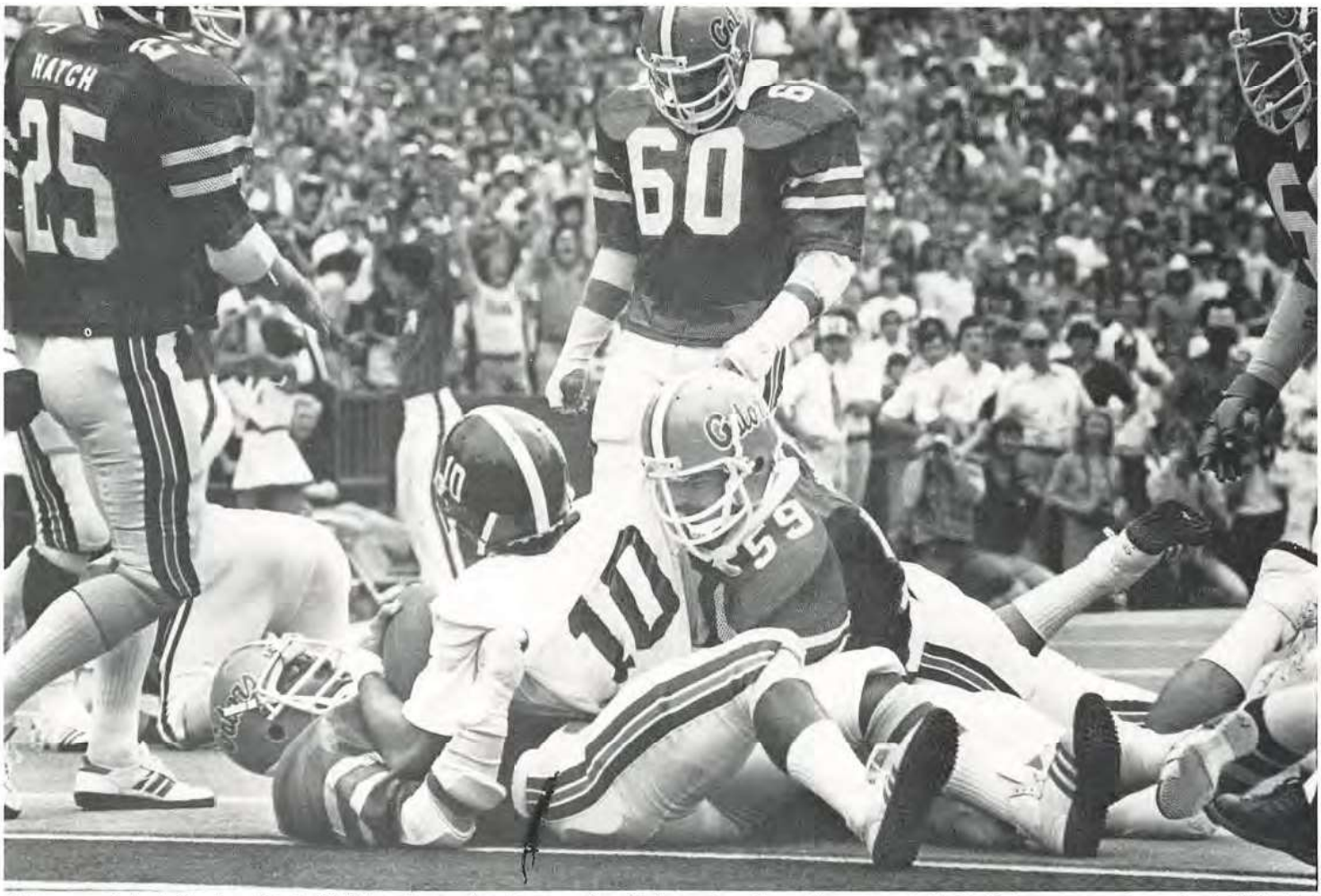
Two series later the Tide got things in very good shape. An 85-yard drive, which was helped along considerably by some unusual penalties against Florida, gave Bama a 14-0 first quarter edge. Florida had hoped to be able to play the Tide close for at least a half, as the Gators had done in their four previous games, and then perhaps turn in an upset in the second half. Florida was its own worst enemy on the second Alabama scoring drive. Earlier in the quarter Bama had been flagged for an illegal procedure play. Buddy Aydelette, the guilty man, pointed out that a Florida defender was yelling the Alabama snap count, which is illegal. When it happened again on Bama's next series the official was ready and gave the Gators a 15-yard unsportsmanlike conduct penalty, as well as a warning not to continue. Five plays later Florida was flagged again for the same violation to put the Tide at Florida's 10 with a first down. Two plays later Steve Whitman had the score.

Alabama has scored in every quarter of each of its first five games, but had to struggle to get points in the second quarter Saturday. On Bama's first possession of the second period the Tide drove the football 107 yards on the ground. However, 45 yards in gains were wiped out by penalties and the 25 yards of penalties in the march left it dead at Florida's 44. Woody Umphrey then lofted a punt out of bounds at Florida's one. A little later he followed that punt with one to the Gators' nine. Finally with 31 seconds remaining before halftime Alan McElroy connected on a 31-yard field goal. Thus Bama had gained the psychological lift of scoring in the crucial moments just before intermission

A third important time in the football game is the first few minutes of the second half. It seemed that Alabama was not going to do so well in this time frame when a Shealy pass was intercepted on the Tide's first possession. But Don Jacobs, who had been demoted a notch or so in Alabama practice last week following the Wichita State game, came on with the first offense to start Bama's second possession from the Florida 27. He started around right end, got outstanding blocking at the line and downfield and finally pointed out the last man who had a chance to get him to split end Tim Clark, who screened off the potential tackler and allow Jacobs to complete his 73-yard TD scamper. "I'll tell you why I was running so hard," said Don later. "I got a glimpse of Dock Luckie moving in and I had already been hit enough by Florida. That was the hardest-hitting team I've played against."

With a 23-0 lead (the only apparent Alabama failure all day was McElroy missing that extra point kick), the last quarter and a half involved only mop up work by the offense.

The defense played its best game of the year, and certainly was helped by having to play only 41 snaps. Eight times Tide



Alabama quarterback Steadman Shealy didn't have to see where he was going. He knew where the goalline was as he backed in from three yards out for the Tide's first touchdown against the Florida Gators Saturday.
—Photo by Spectrum-Southeast

defenders caught Gators for lost yardage. The biggest threat in the Florida offensive arsenal is split end Cris Collinsworth. Collinsworth got his hands on the football only one time, that a seven-yard reception that was short of a first down in the first quarter. Florida tried only nine passes, six of them to Collinsworth, but completed only one to Gators. For the second time this year Bama defenders caught more passes from the opposing quarterback than did the opposing receivers. Tommy Wilsox and Benny Perrin, both redshirted freshmen defensive backs, had the thefts.

Florida had only 66 yards of total offense, and, incredibly, only six yards of forward progress in the second half.

"The most important thing we had to do was contain their passing game, which we did very well," said Bama assistant coach Sylvester Croom, who had responsibility for the Florida game. "We felt we had to contain their quarterback after last week when the Wichita State quarterback got outside our containment several times. Florida never got outside our containment.

"We made it tough on them. Our front took the pressure off our secondary.

"We didn't do anything different," added Croom. "I think our players were just a little more aware of what they had to do. They went out there acting like they were having a good time and really did the job."

Alabama has played against very conservative, very simple offensive teams the past two weeks. That changes this week. While Wichita State and Florida had perhaps a half dozen basic formations each, Tennessee was already used over 20 different formations this year.

If there was anything disappointing in the Alabama kicking game besides the missed extra point it was Ricky Tucker failing to block a Florida punt early in the game. Tucker ran straight up the middle and was never touched. "I just got in there too fast," said Ricky. "I started to just tackle the punter, but I was afraid he would get the punt off and it would be a roughing call. But by then I had gone too far to block it. I was right beside the punter when he kicked it. I almost cried."

Not surprisingly, Alabama ranks among the nation's leaders in numerous statistical categories, including leading the nation in scoring (43.8 points per game) and scoring defense (1.8 points per game). The performance against Florida improved the Tide's position in all defensive categories, but surprisingly was below Bama standards of scoring and total offense. The only national team category offensively in which Alabama is not highly ranked is, of course, passing. The Tide is ranked in the nation's top ten in all defensive categories.

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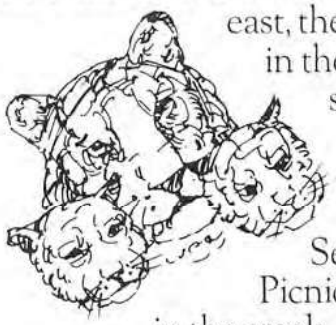

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Florida players, predictably, were very complimentary of the Alabama team. Defensive back Chuck Hatch said "The most impressive thing about them was their front line. They are so quick off the ball. We knew they'd be coming with two teams, but we couldn't do anything about it. You couldn't tell the first team from the substitutes." Fullback John Whittaker said "I didn't take any real hard blows and they weren't a hard-hitting team. But they have great quickness and technique. We anticipated it, but we couldn't handle it."

Although Florida has not won a game this year, the Gators seem to be fully behind coach Charley Pell, who was a member of the 1961 Alabama national championship team. After Saturday's game, probably the only one Pell will ever have against coach Bryant, the first year Florida coach said:

"We were whipped by a fine Alabama football team. They were by far the best team we've played so far this year. I've never been beaten that badly.

"I want to cast my vote for the University of Alabama as the best team in the country for 1979. It is coached by the best coach in the country.

"We didn't play well, but Bama had a lot to do with that. I didn't see they had any weaknesses. They whipped us in every phase of the game. I was outcoached totally."★

ALABAMA STATISTICS VS. FLORIDA

RUSHING	Att.	Gain	Lost	Net	TD	Long
Jacobs	7	130	8	122	1	73
Hill	11	74	0	74	1	23
Shealy	10	64	9	55	1	23
Gray	9	33	1	32	0	10
Ogilvie	6	26	0	26	1	9
Haney	3	24	0	24	0	19
Whitman	7	24	0	24	1	5
Jackson	4	21	0	21	0	15
Fagan	5	19	0	19	0	12
Nix	3	18	0	18	0	10
Jones	3	11	0	11	0	5
Landrum	2	6	0	6	0	4
Williams	1	3	0	3	0	3
BAMA TOTALS	71	453	18	435	5	73
FLORIDA TOTALS	32	115	56	59	0	15

PUNTING	No.	Yards	Avg.	Long
Umphrey	3	112	37.3	43
FLORIDA TOTALS	9	361	40.1	47

SCORE BY QUARTERS:	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
Alabama	14	3	13	10	-- 40
Florida	0	0	0	0	-- 0

SCORING

Alabama -- Shealy, 3 rush (McElroy kick)
Alabama -- Whitman, 5 rush (McElroy kick)
Alabama -- McElroy, 31 field goal
Alabama -- Jacobs, 73 rush (kick fail)
Alabama -- Ogilvie, 1 rush (McElroy kick)
Alabama -- Hill, 2 rush (McElroy kick)
Alabama -- McElroy, 34 field goal

PASSING	Att-Comp-Int	Yards	TD	Long
Shealy	7 - 2 - 1	19	0	20
FLORIDA TOTALS	9 - 1 - 2	7	0	7

RECEIVING	No.	Yards	TD	Long
Gray	1	20	0	20
Jackson	1	-1	0	-1

ALL RETURNS	Punts No.	Punts Yds.	Kickoffs No.	Kickoffs Yds.	Int'c'ns No.	Int'c'ns Yds.
Coley	3	41				
Ogilvie	2	13				
McNeal			1	42		
Wilcox					1	6
Perrin					1	0
BAMA TOTALS	5	54	1	42	2	6
FLORIDA TOTALS	1	5	8	125	1	17

FIELD GOALS	Att.	Made	Long
McElroy	2	2	34
FLORIDA TOTALS	0	0	--

TEAM STATISTICS	BAMA	FLORIDA
First Downs	22	3
Rushing	19	3
Passing	1	0
Penalty	3	0
Total Offensive Plays	78	41
Total Net Yards	454	66
Average Gain Per Play	5.82	1.61
Fumbles-Lost	1-1	1-1
Penalties-Yards	5-46	7-58
Time Of Possession	38:28	21:32
Third Down Conversions	10-15	1-11

DEFENSE LEADERS	Solo	Assist	Total
Boyd	7	5	12
Scott	4	1	5
Wilcox	2	3	5
Hamilton	2	2	4

COACH BRYANT ON BAMA

"We've got something coming up that's five times more of a challenge than anything we've had. Tennessee has good football players who are well-coached and we are badly wounded. But we can't call it off. We've got to take the ones who can go and then we've got to have them play well.

"Tennessee has terrific team speed, particularly quarterback Jimmy Streater, who has broken all sorts of Tennessee offense records. And, of course, they have an advantage that they haven't had before in that they've already played one wishbone team this year, which should help them a great deal in their preparation for us.

"Last week was a real big win in a real big game. I was tremendously proud and happy for our players for winning. I think Florida has a great future as they are a very young team and I know Charley Pell will do a good job with them.

"We played a lot of people and we played a lot of them early. We had to, really, because we got so many hurt.

"The game against Florida was won by big plays and by third downs. We had a lot of big plays, offensively and defensively, and they didn't. And on third down situations, they had 11 and made one and we had 15 and made 10.

"I think Florida had some trouble with our multiple defense, in recognition, because they were checking off a lot. In fairness to Charley and his staff, they didn't have time to prepare for that with all the injuries they've had this year.

"We certainly played a lot better than we practiced last week, which is unusual. I'm not one of those guys who would rather be lucky than good. I'd rather be good.

"I don't care about the polls now. We'll care a lot more about them at the end if we're still in the running. But we won't be in the running if we don't get by Tennessee this week."

ALABAMA DEPTH CHART VS. FLORIDA

Here is a depth chart of the Alabama players who performed against Florida Saturday with starters listed first and no one listed at more than one position, although a few played more than one spot. Bama used all 60 men on the trip in the game, including nine redshirted freshmen and seven true freshmen. There were 32 on offense, 25 on defense and three on the kicking teams.

OFFENSE

Split End: Keith Pugh, Alan Gray, Tim Clark, Buddy Holt
Left Tackle: Buddy Aydelette, Eddie McCombs, Vince Cowell
Left Guard: Mike Brock, Scott Allison, Dan Holcombe
Center: Dwight Stephenson, Barry Smith, Joe Robbins
Right Guard: Vince Boothe, Gary Bramblett
Right Tackle: Jim Bunch, Wiley Barnes
Tight End: Tim Travis, Bart Krout, Larry Brown
Quarterback: Steadman Shealy, Don Jacobs, Micheal Landrum
Left Halfback: Billy Jackson, Joe Jones, James Haney
Right Halfback: Major Ogilvie, Mark Nix, Jeff Fagan
Fullback: Steve Whitman, John Hill, Charlie Williams

DEFENSE

Left End: Gary DeNiro, Wayne Hamilton, Mike Pitts
Left Tackle: Byron Braggs, Joe Beazley
Middle Guard: Warren Lyles, Bob Cayavec, Jackie Cline
Right Tackle: David Hannah, Curtis McGriff
Right End: E. J. Junior, John Mauro
Strongside Linebacker: Randy Scott, Ricky Rozzell
Weakside Linebacker: Thomas Boyd, Robbie Jones
Left Halfback: Don McNeal, Jeremiah Castille
Right Halfback: Mike Clements, Ken Coley
Strong Safety: Tommy Wilcox, Bobby Smith
Safety: Jim Bob Harris, Ricky Tucker, Benny Perrin

SPECIALTY TEAMS

Punter: Woody Umphrey
Placekicker: Alan McElroy
Coverage: Ken Simon

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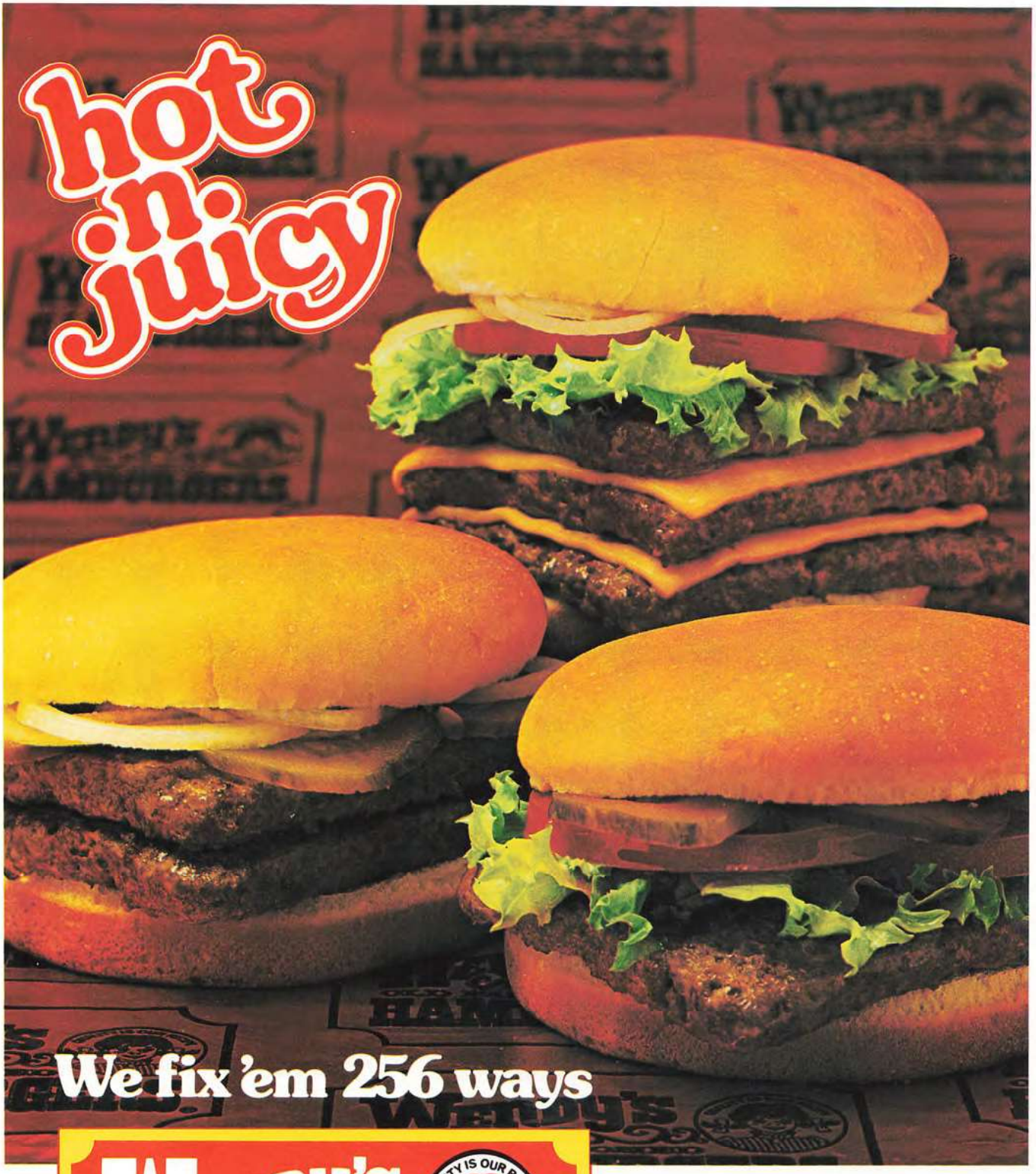
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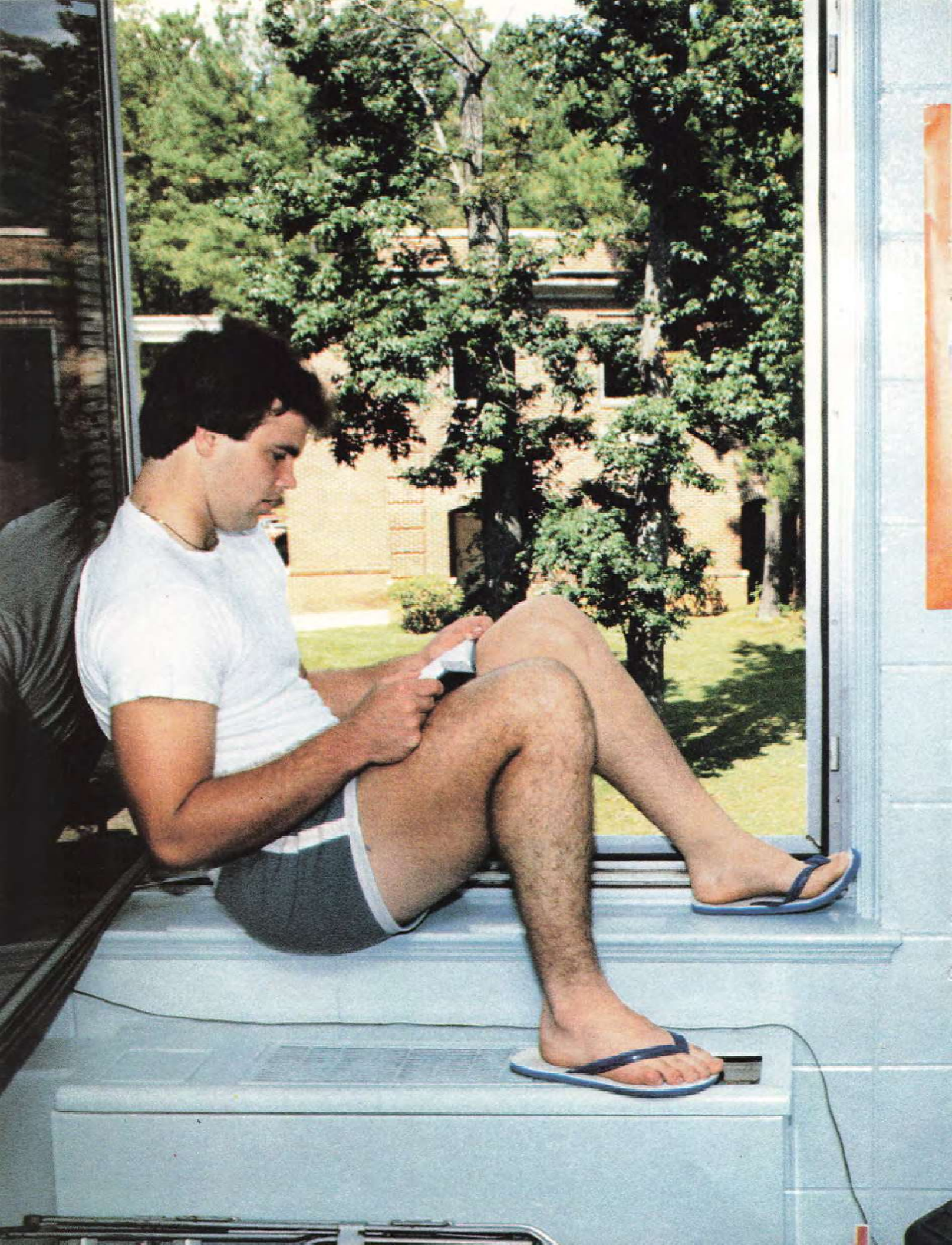


IN PAUL BRYANT HALL

ALABAMA ATHLETES LIVE AS ONE BIG, HAPPY FAMILY

by Hank Brownstone

In this decade of movements aimed at ensuring freedom of choice and individual liberty, University of Alabama football players are accepting a mandatory living agreement without the slightest whimper of protest.

They enjoy living in Paul Bryant Hall, thank you, for reasons beyond daily chances to gaze at national championship trophies that present and past inhabitants earned for a smartly and abundantly decorated awards case in the lobby.

"I love living in our athletic dorm, because it helps us become a closer group," said Don McNeal, a senior defensive halfback who is spending his fourth year in the building known nationally as The Bear Bryant Hilton. "We live together, sleep together, study together, eat together and play together. That creates a rare oneness.

"There is no such thing as black and white or freshman and senior on our team. We all have a sense of being in the same thing together and I think living in the athletic dorm has helped create that feeling.

"You could call us a happy family."

That "family" also has an adopted father and mother—Jack and Norma Rutledge, who have lived among Crimson Tide players since 1972. Jack is an assistant coach who was selected by Coach Paul "Bear" Bryant to run the dorm built in 1962, the year he graduated after a banner career as a Crimson Tide offensive lineman. Norma is his pretty wife who never balked when asked to leave a normal home life for an unusual tour of duty that she has come to love.

"We're in our eighth year and it has been a rewarding experience for us," said Jack Rutledge. "We particularly enjoy the close personal relationships we have developed with players through the years. We look at ourselves as their dad and mom away from home. In a sense, all of the guys are our children.

"We like to think the athletic dorm is like a happy home. We have our share of normal family problems, but overall things have gone very well.

"We've been fortunate to have had guys at Alabama who are class individuals. They're all pulling for one another. They're working hard to live in harmony."

Jack Rutledge said in-house problems between players are usually worked out without he or his wife having to serve as referee. He adds that individuals are urged to discuss problems with him and Norma and said most are more than willing to do so.

"Norma talks with players about their problems more than I do," Jack Rutledge said. "She is gifted when it comes to working out girl problems. She also gets to know the girl friends well, which always helps.

"I tell you, it's amazing watching some of our guys mature in the four years they spend in the dorm. It doesn't take much help from us either.

"Then when they graduate and leave, it's always a sad time for us. You can't live under the same roof for that long without becoming good friends."

Jack and Norma Rutledge treat Crimson Tide players in a way similar to the way they do their own children.

"We don't have a lot of rules and regulations, just a lot of good communication," Jack Rutledge said. "Our guys know right from wrong. That's part of team discipline.

"They know they are to be in the dorm by 11 p.m. during the season, in their rooms by midnight and quiet all the time. There is no real need to pamper them."

Alabama players live two to a room. They are provided a bed and little more, most choosing to furnish their rooms to suit their individual tastes. They share community baths—two on each of the three floors—and are afforded a comfortable television room, a well-stocked recreation room and several quiet rooms for studying.

"We try to provide our players with a comfortable, homey style of living," Jack Rutledge said. "We're more functional than elaborate.

"Bryant Hall is similar to other dorms on campus. We're in line with regulations handed down by the National Collegiate Athletic Association that say athletic dorms must be comparable to housing provided for non-athletic students.

"The only major difference in our athletic dorm and other dorms on campus is our occupants share more common interests."

One of the most popular interests among Alabama players is eating and they are well cared for in that area by Bryant Hall dietician Ms. Dorothy Pierson.

Ms. Pierson has been chief dietician at the athletic dorm since 1965 and currently heads a staff of 23 that makes sure Crimson Tide players do not go to practice, to games or to bed hungry.

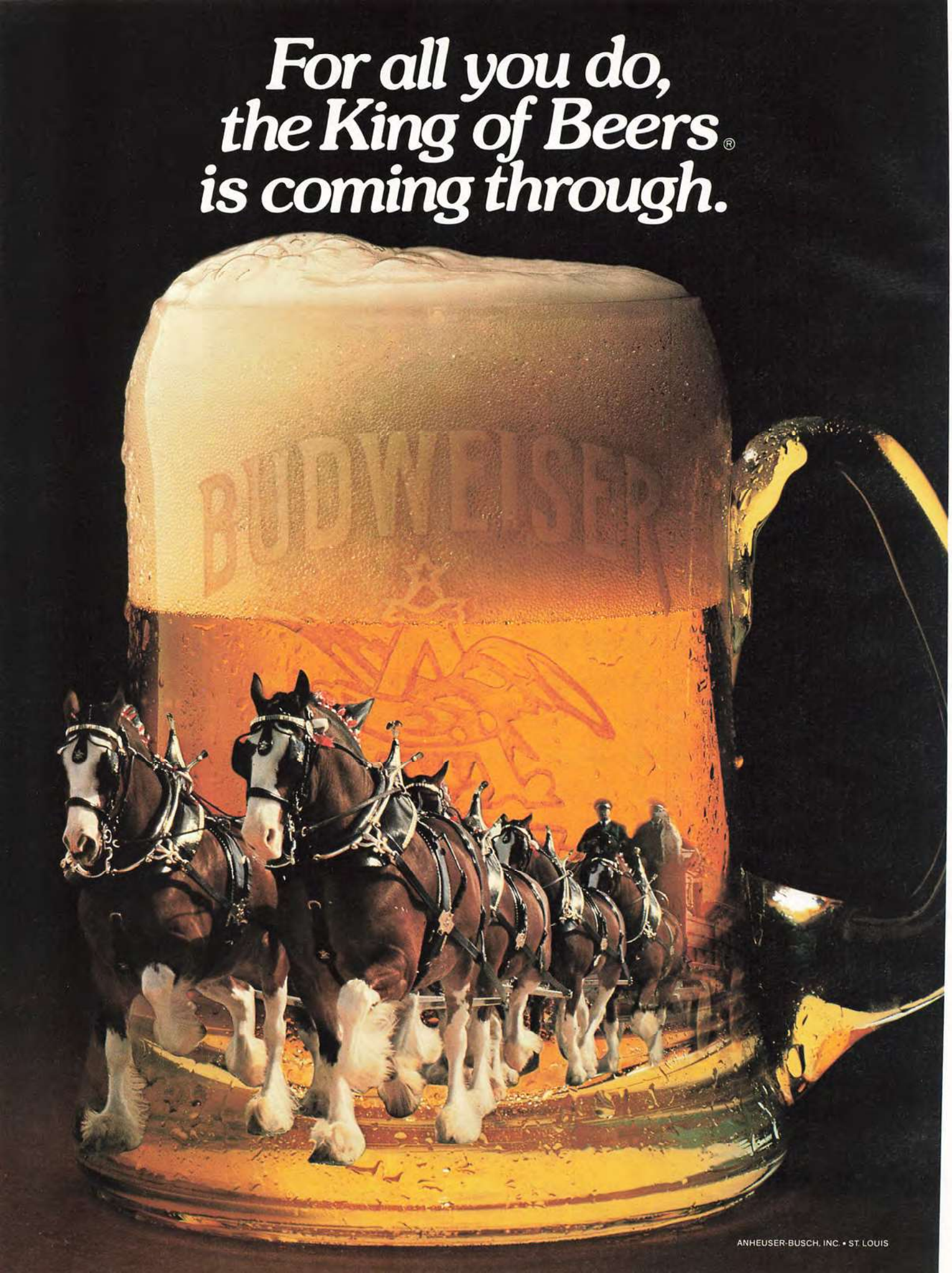
Like the Rutledges, Ms. Pierson has trouble keeping from getting too close to the young men who daily eat at her table.

"I used to allow myself to pick favorites among our players," Ms. Pierson said, "but I don't do that now. When I let myself become too involved with players, it was too much to handle when they graduated.

"Now, I just try to fix food for them like they would eat at home—and pull for them to win on weekends. I'm a real fan. I always have been, even as a cheerleader at Holt High School."

Bama tight end Bart Krout enjoys the weather and a view of the courtyard as he gets in a little studying in his room at Alabama's athletics dormitory, Paul W. Bryant Hall.

—Photo by Spectrum-Southeast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Ms. Pierson and her staff face a yeoman task daily. They must prepare breakfast for about 100 players, lunch for about 150 (football and basketball players) and dinner for about 250 (almost all Alabama athletes). A snack tray is left for late evening and she reports it is almost empty every morning.

"We attempt to serve balanced meals, but the selection is up to the players," Ms. Pierson said. "We also try to give them variety. We don't have cycle menus like some cafeterias.

"We also don't plan very much in advance. I'd like to be able to do that, but with the hectic class, practice and travel schedules our athletes have, there's not much way. We just try to have food available when they're there to eat it.

"Take a recent weekend, for instance. Our team was delayed about 90 minutes on its trip back from the Vanderbilt game. We knew they would be hungry when they returned, so we made a few adjustments and had the food hot and waiting."

After the Missouri game last season, Ms. Pierson and staff were able to plan ahead. Before the team left for Columbia and a 38-20 victory, Ms. Pierson announced she was taking orders and would prepare whatever players wanted if they won.

"That was quite a feast," Ms. Pierson said. "We even had oysters on the half shell and boiled shrimp."

One Christmas saw an even grander setting.

"We had cornish hens and a pig complete with apple in mouth," Ms. Pierson said. "We try to make holiday meals more special, because the players would like to be at home with their families."

Does it take a special diet to satisfy football players?

"No, just more of it," Ms. Pierson said. "It's not uncommon for every player to eat two 12-ounce chicken breasts at a meal. They love steak, too, and also like to mix it with fish.

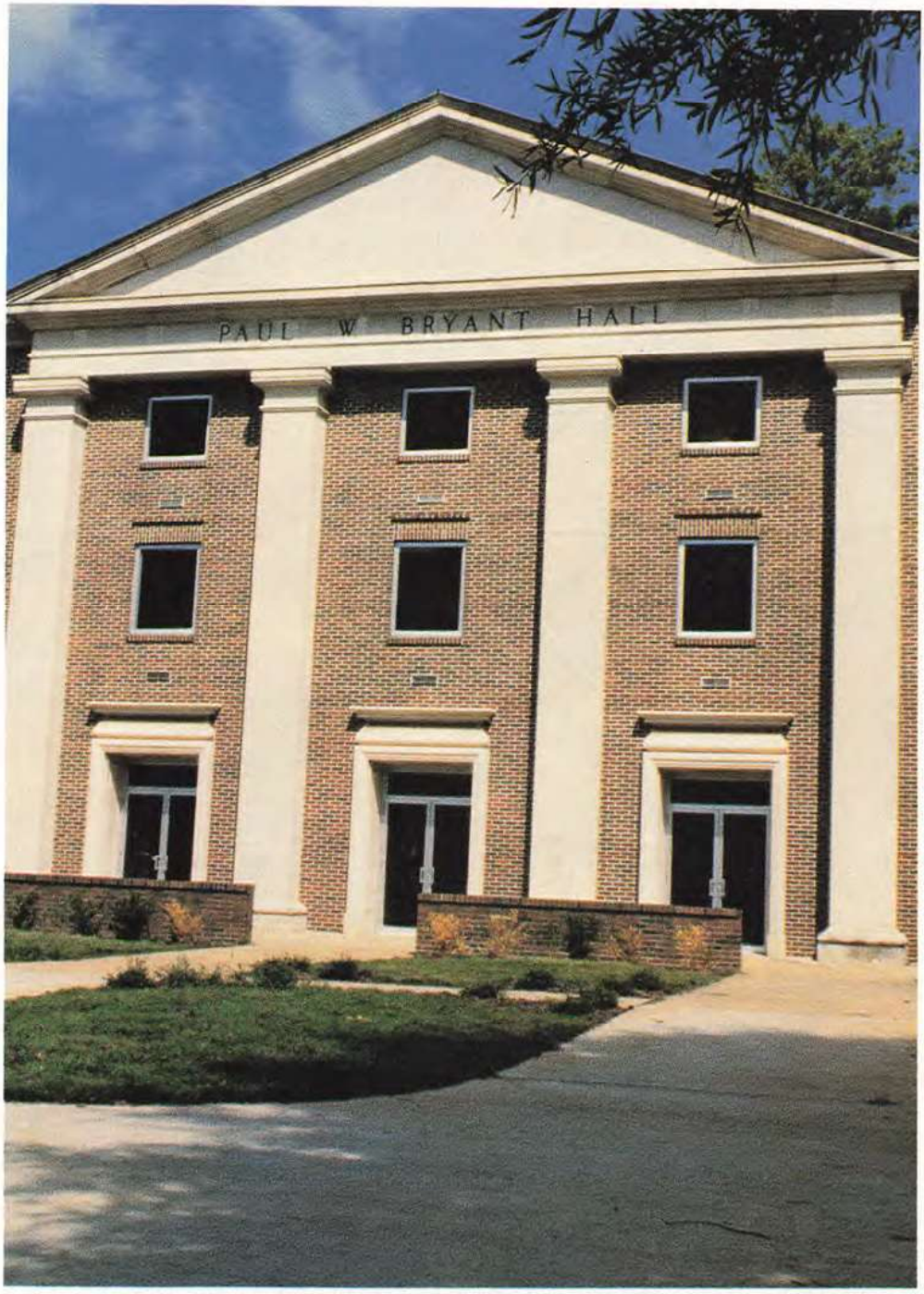
"For instance, every time we have steak, we know (tight end) Tim Travis wants catfish with his.

"I think a good diet of vegetables is important and most of our players are good vegetable eaters. Most of them are good eaters, period. They eat quite a portion of most anything.

"But (defensive back) Tommy Wilcox is an exception. He's from down in Louisiana and doesn't like vegetables at all. He's a meat eater and really loves red beans and rice."

Different strokes for different folks?

Perhaps, but at Paul Bryant Hall they keep it all in the family.★



Paul W. Bryant Hall on the University of Alabama campus is beautiful and functional, but more than that it is home to winning Crimson Tide athletes. —Photo by Spectrum-Southeast

CRIMSON GALLERY →

The Stiffarm

When a Crimson Tide ballcarrier runs out of blockers and finds himself on his own against a defender, he has to employ some method of evasive action.

It could be speed, or moves, or possibly power.

Sophomore halfback James Haney makes good use of another weapon in the running back's arsenal, the stiffarm.

The stiffarm is one of the oldest tactics in football and no doubt was even more effective in the days before the advent of the facemask.

The purpose of the stiffarm is to keep the defender from making a clean body tackle.

—Photo by Spectrum-Southeast

Pep
Challe

DOWN
TO GO

DWIGHT STEPHENSON:

ALABAMA'S BEST CENTER EVER

by Hank Brownstone

University of Alabama football player Dwight Stephenson is a lot like a volcano.

With his mouse-quiet style and quick smile, he looks perfectly harmless standing on the sidelines. But when he hurls himself at enemy defenders, the powerful senior center usually leaves a path of destruction — as well as a Crimson Tide runner heading obstacle-free toward a touchdown.

Also, consider his lava-hot will to win.

"Dwight cannot stand to get beat," says Jack Rutledge, the Alabama assistant coach in charge of centers. "He wants to win every battle, even at practice. He goes at full speed on every play, always trying to help the team.

"There is no doubt about it, Dwight is the best center we've ever had at Alabama."

Hold on a minute, Jack. You just said a mouthful putting Stephenson at the top of a list that since 1960 includes LeeRoy Jordan, John O'Linger, Paul Crane, Jimmy Carroll, Richard Grammar, Jimmy Grammar, Jim Krapf, Sylvester Croom and Terry Jones.

"We've had great centers, I know, but Dwight is the best of the bunch," Rutledge says. "He has done more than just live up to standards set by those who played before him. He has improved a tradition. He blends quickness, strength, learning ability and burning desire into one package. He is a well-rounded, complete football player.

"It's a pleasure working with Dwight. I have to tell him to do something only once. Then I just put him out there and enjoy watching him play."

Others have similar opinions of Stephenson. In fact, ABC-TV thought so much of his ability that it spotlighted the 6-foot-3, 242-pound All-American from Hampton, Virginia in a pre-season national show displaying proper techniques used by successful blockers.

Offensive tackle Jim Bunch, a fellow senior, starter and Virginian, offers an explanation why people think so much of Stephenson.

"Dwight is THE man in our offensive line," Bunch said after Crimson Tide blockers paved the way to a 45-0 victory over Baylor this season. "He plays like a champion every week, in games and in practice. He holds our line together. We rally around him."

Needless to say, it takes uncanny ability for a silent warrior like Stephenson to earn such a compliment. He is rarely heard — "Dwight might say five or 10 words during a game," says Bunch — but is also rarely seen missing an assignment.

What does the focal point of such hoopla say for himself?

"I just want to be the best player I possibly can," Stephenson says. "I can always get better. I need to now.

"Have I ever been satisfied with a game I played? Probably one or two, but there is always room for improvement. If I miss a block, that's not good enough."

In the dressing room after a 66-3 victory over Vanderbilt this season, Stephenson was frowning as teammates celebrated.

"It wasn't one of my best games," Stephenson said. "I missed a block that almost got (quarterback) Steadman Shealy killed. Our team played great, but I didn't do much."

Two days later, coach Paul "Bear" Bryant, who has labeled Stephenson "a great player," was handing out praise to deserving players.

"Stephenson played very well," coach Bryant said. "He forced Vandy to give up a man to keep him from blocking their linebackers."

Stephenson also downplayed his effort against Ohio State middle guard Aaron Brown in a 35-6 Sugar Bowl victory at the end of the 1977 season.

Coach Bryant took exception: "Stephenson played a whale of a game. He looked as if he was being shot out of a cannon."

Stephenson arrived at Alabama as a skinny freshman (205 pounds) out of Hampton High School, where his team won the 1975 Virginia state championship. He had played center and defensive tackle at Hampton and Crimson Tide coaches decided to try him at defensive end.

But in the spring before the 1977 season, Alabama was shorthanded in the defensive line and coaches started juggling players. Terry Jones, who had been All-Southeastern Conference the year before and who was destined for All-America honors as a center, was moved to middle guard. That strategy provided Stephenson with what has become an ingenius trial at center.

Jones has since become a starter at defensive tackle with the Green Bay Packers. Scouts say Stephenson is an almost sure-bet to become a National Football League center.

"If the opportunity to turn pro presents itself, I'd like to give it a try," says Stephenson, a social work major who scores well in academics. "But right now I'm only interested in helping Alabama win another national championship."

Championship or not, Alabama must be proud it landed Stephenson in the first place. He did some considerable balking before putting his name on a Crimson Tide grand-in-aid.

"I recruited Dwight with a lot of help from (former Alabama assistant coach) Al Kincaid and Lady Luck," says Ken Donahue, the assistant head coach and defensive coordinator. "While it was a pleasure dealing with Dwight and his parents, it was not an easy recruiting assignment.

"There were three outstanding players on the Hampton team and they all wanted to go to the same place. Every time I'd ask

Dwight something, all he would say is yes or no. Believe it or not, he was a whole lot quieter then than now.

"Well, I stayed several days in a motel up there wondering what he was thinking and how well the North Carolina State (and Clemson) people were doing with him. When he finally said he wanted to play at Alabama, it was a relief.

"But that was only the start. When we got in his living room for the signing — I already had the papers on the table and he had the pen in his hand - he said he had to wait a few minutes and talk to his mother. They left the room and I was wondering if he was about to change his mind right there at the signing ceremony.

"You talk about relieved. I felt mighty good when he came back and signed with us.

"If I had realized how good Dwight was to become, I'd have been even more happy. He is an ideal football player. He doesn't like to lose, no matter what he's doing. Had we not moved him to center, he could have become an outstanding middle guard or defensive tackle."

Stephenson remembers the ordeal he went through trying to decide who to sign with, and has never doubted the conclusion he made.

"Basically, I decided on Alabama because of its name," Stephenson says "I wasn't familiar with what Alabama had accomplished in football and didn't know much about coach Bryant, but my high school coach (Mike Smith) knew all about it. He tried to convience all of us that Alabama was the place to go if we had a chance.

"The night before I signed, my two buddies and I decided we were going to Alabama. But the next day, that all changed and I was stuck with the decision.

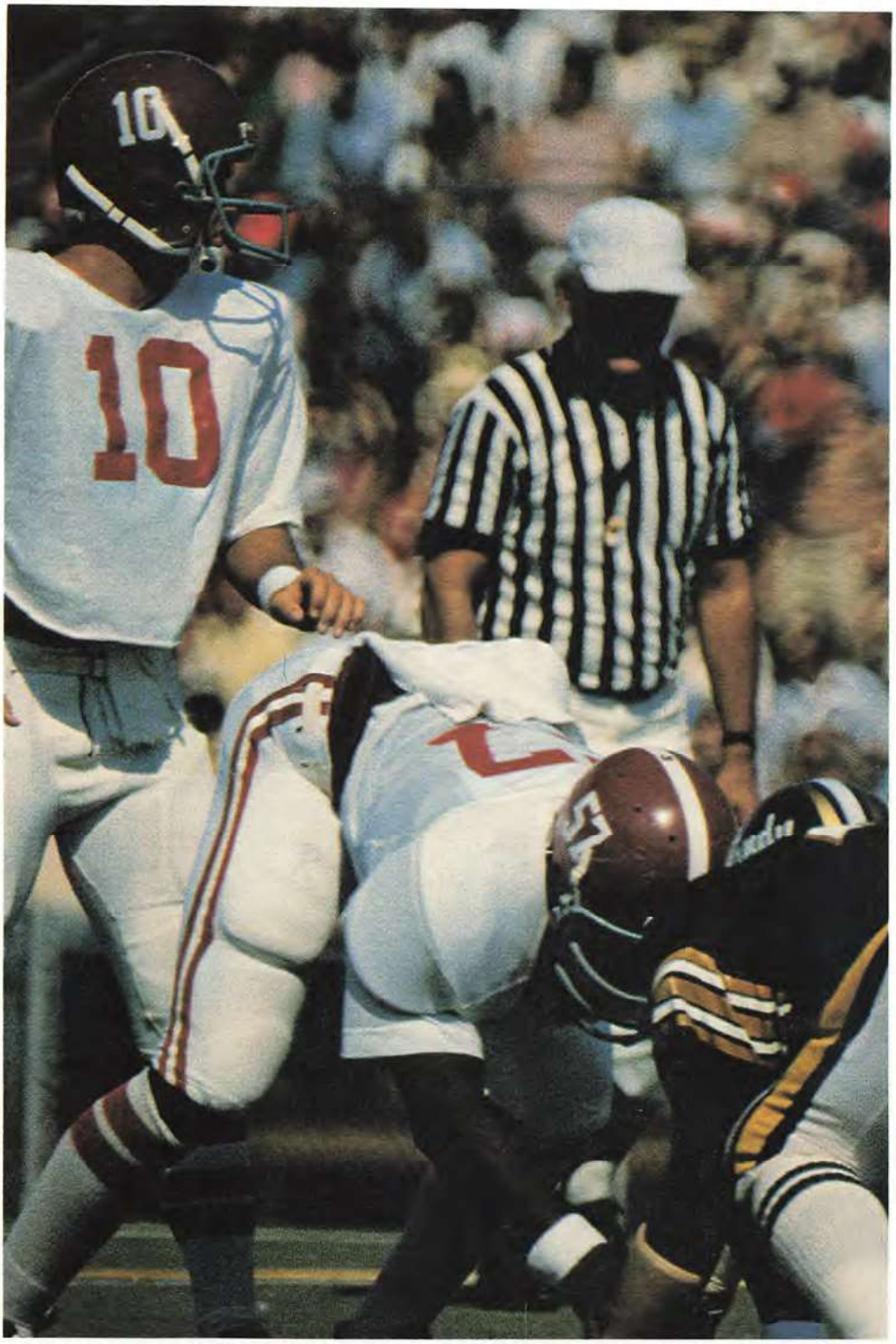
"I was worried about going so far from home, where my parents and (six) brothers and sisters wouldn't get to see me play. I wasn't sure what to do and I wanted to make sure my mom (Mable) understood.

"That's why I had to talk to her one last time before signing. I wanted her to make the decision, I guess, but she told me to do what I thought was best for me."

Stephenson signed the grant-in-aid while his father, Eugene, was at work.

"I told Dad what I had done when he got home from work," Dwight says, "and he was proud. He said he thought moving away from home would make me a man faster. I think he was right."

Mrs. Stephenson, who was not very excited about Dwight playing football at all, tends to agree, although she says she still treasures time the family spends together.



It all starts with Dwight Stephenson when Alabama runs an offensive play. It takes considerable skill to snap the ball to the quarterback and then take on a tough defensive lineman who is only a few inches away when the play begins. —Photo by Spectrum-Southeast

"I can tell a lot of difference in Dwight since he's been away from home," Mrs. Stephenson says. "He has gotten over some of his bashfull ways and has grown up a lot.

"Dwight has gotten larger, too, and has developed quite an appetite. Sometimes I can't believe how much food he eats when he's home.

"I still miss having him around the house. I guess any mother would be like that. Sometimes when I see him play on television, it's almost like he's coming into our living room."

Speaking of the living room, does Mrs. Stephenson recall the summit conference she and Dwight had as Donahue waited impatiently?

"Yes, I remember that very well," Mrs. Stephenson says. "About all it was was Dwight asking what he should do and me telling him to make up his own mind.

"Dwight was showing concern for his family, which is good, but I wanted him to think of himself. After all, it was four years of his life at stake. It was his future and his education we were talking about.

"I hated it when he left to go so far from home. At first, it was a hard pill to take. I worried about him all the time, even called him two to three times a week.

"Then I found peace of mind by leaving it all in the hands of The Lord. When I did that, I accepted the fact he couldn't stay at home forever.

"When Dwight started doing so good in football, I felt more at ease. I knew then he had made the right choice."

Mrs. Stephenson says she is surprised her son has become the best center in America, as surprised as she was upon learning he wanted to play sports in the first place.

"I never thought he would be as good as people say he is now," Mrs. Stephenson says. "Sometimes that just seems impossible.

"Dwight always like sports, though, so I guess that's one reason he has done well. In fact, I used to get mad because he liked sports so well. He was all the time pitching a fit to stay late at school and play some more. And on Saturday mornings, when I had a chance to sleep late, he always needed a ride to the school for a game.

"I was mad about that, but always got up and carried him whereever he needed to be. I had no idea it would come to this."

Mrs Stephenson was finally convinced her son loved football when he woke up one Saturday morning and grimaced in pain.

"His ankle was so swollen after a game at Hampton that he couldn't walk down the stairs," Mrs. Stephenson says. "It scared me so bad I took him to the emergency room. But it didn't slow Dwight down at all. He played the next week.

"That made me realize he was crazy about the game.

"I still think it's dangerous. But I guess he can get hurt walking down the street about as easily as he can playing football."

The way Stephenson delivers licks in rapid fashion, defenders are too busy trying to fight off his charge to do much damage to him. At least that is the opinion of Sylvester Croom, an All-American in 1973 who currently serves as a Crimson Tide assistant coach.

"I'm a Dwight Stephenson fan," says Croom, whose style of play was similar to that of his younger hero. "The biggest thing is he's such a fierce competitor. He works hard in practice. He tries to punish people in games. Those are intangible things that have made him a great player.

"Physically, he has strength and quickness. I was a power center and Paul Crane was a quickness center. Dwight is both.

"If Dwight is not an All-America, I don't know what one is. He's so consistent. I don't think anybody can do a better job at center than he does.

"Dwight wants to be great and he wants to get better. We've had conversations about our tradition at center and I can assure you he wants to add to it.

"You know what else makes Dwight a great player? He's so doggone hard on himself that he pushes hard to become a real champion."★

Tide center Dwight Stephenson spends a lot of time in a football game on the ground, but the good news is that he almost always takes at least one opposing defender down with him.
—Photo by Spectrum-Southeast

FUTURE TIDE SCHEDULES

THE 1980 SEASON
Sept. 13—Georgia Tech, home
Sept. 20—Mississippi, away
Sept. 27—Vanderbilt, home
Oct. 4—Kentucky, home
Oct. 11—Rutgers, away
Oct. 18—Tennessee, away
Oct. 25—Southern Miss, home
Nov. 1—Mississippi State, away
Nov. 8—Louisiana State, home
Nov. 15—Notre Dame, home
Nov. 29—Auburn, Birmingham

THE 1981 SEASON
Sept. 12—Georgia Tech, home
Sept. 19—Kentucky, away
Sept. 26—Vanderbilt, away
Oct. 3—Mississippi, home
Oct. 10—Southern Miss, home
Oct. 17—Tennessee, home
Oct. 24—Rutgers, home
Oct. 31—Mississippi State, home
Nov. 7—Louisiana State, away
Nov. 14—Penn State, away
Nov. 28—Auburn, Birmingham

THE 1982 SEASON
Sept. 11—Georgia Tech, away
Sept. 18—Mississippi, away
Sept. 25—Vanderbilt, home
Oct. 2—Southern Miss, home
Oct. 9—Penn State, home
Oct. 16—Tennessee, away
Oct. 23—Cincinnati, home
Oct. 30—Mississippi State, away
Nov. 6—Louisiana State, home
Nov. 20—Rutgers, away
Nov. 27—Auburn, Birmingham

THE 1983 SEASON
Sept. 10—Georgia Tech, away
Sept. 17—Mississippi, home
Sept. 24—Vanderbilt, away
Oct. 1—Pending
Oct. 8—Penn State, away
Oct. 15—Tennessee, home
Oct. 22—Boston College, home
Oct. 29—Mississippi State, home
Nov. 5—Louisiana State, away
Nov. 12—Southern Miss, home
Nov. 26—Auburn, Birmingham

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TENNESSEE VOLUNTEERS

by Kirk McNair

Has the job been completed? Has John Majors, the favorite son, fulfilled his mission as saviour of the Tennessee football program?

Perhaps not yet to the national championship standard that he reached as head coach at Pittsburgh, but the Vols are getting there, it seems. Half of an immediate goal has been reached this year. Tennessee has wanted desperately to turn its fortunes against its two Southeastern Conference rivals from the state of Alabama. The Vols demolished Auburn. (Tennessee fans seem to have far more dislike for Auburn than Alabama fans, but of course Tennessee has been losing to Auburn.)

Now comes the true test. While Auburn has been a nemesis, it is Alabama which has set the championship standard in this decade. After Bama's win over Tennessee in Knoxville last year, a Tennessee fan yelled at coach Bryant as he left the field, "Just two more years, Bear." While at the time that fan was willing to wait until 1980 in Knoxville for the Vols to end the losing to Bama, he—and virtually all the rest—now has reason to believe it can come sooner.

John Majors nor Paul Bryant nor any other coach can win many football games in the Southeastern Conference without good football players. Several good recruiting years have given Tennessee those players and now the Vols are ready to compete. Some half dozen Vols are

Tennessee coach Johnny Majors is leading the Vols toward their goal of national prominence primarily because of the exceptional talent of quarterback Jimmy Streater.

considered all-star candidates this season and signs of depth are beginning to appear at various positions.

While most of the attention during the Tennessee rebuilding process has been centered on coach Majors, here's a look at the men who will be on the field against Bama Saturday:

OFFENSE

Tennessee uses a multiple offense incorporating the veer and the dropback passing game. The attack unit has been piling up yards and points, a result of strength and skill and depth on offense.

Ends: The favorite receiver of quarterback Jimmy Streater is tight end Reggie Harper, and with good reason. Harper is an outstanding tight end, big (6-3, 214) with good hands, an ability to get open and a knack for making the big play. The Vols have quality depth here with Kyle Aguillard and Mike Cofer behind Harper. Anthony Hancock, who saw only spot duty at split end last year, has taken over the starting job at that position this year and he, too, has good players behind him in Bobby King and Robert Jones.

Tackles: Phil Sutton was perhaps the biggest surprise for the Vols last year as the 6-4, 234-pounder from Birmingham moved from fourth string to first string at left tackle. He's back for his final season at that position. At the right tackle the Vols have one of the biggest football players in the SEC, 6-7, 264-pound Tim Irwin.

Guards: Mike Jester (6-3, 235) moved from talent-rich tight end prior to last season and was a backup man in 1978, but this year he's earned starting status. Bill Marren (6-3, 243) came into his senior year with a reputation as a fine player who was always injured, but this year he's shaken off the injury bug and is playing well. Jay Williams, a 6-3, 270-pounder, is a top backup man here, but Williams can also back at either tackle or center.

Center: When Tennessee lost not only its center, but also its long snapper, this looked like a problem spot. However, Lee North, 6-0, 249, who was one of the league's most outstanding freshmen last year at defensive tackle, has moved right in at center. A top backup man is redshirted freshman Rob Thompson of Enterprise, who was an outstanding prep prospect two years ago.

Quarterback: An outstanding football player, Jimmy Streater is the key to Tennessee success. The slight (6-1, 161) senior has lightning-quick hands, feet and reflexes and makes life miserable for opponents. Streater set new one-season offense records at Tennessee last year. He completes well over half of his passes, but is doubly dangerous as a runner. Backup man is Jeff Olszewski, a sophomore who moved ahead of senior David Rudder. Rudder, of course, came on late and took the Vols to two touchdowns to turn a 30-3 game in the fourth quarter into a respectable final margin of 30-17 in Bama's eighth straight decision last year.

Perhaps the most outstanding athlete at the University of Tennessee is defensive halfback Roland James. He doesn't get the football often, but when he does he can make it rough for opponents of the Vols.

Tailback: You can't tell the players without a program as the Vols send men in and out constantly at the running back positions. Gary Moore, who started the Tennessee rout of Auburn by returning the opening kickoff for a touchdown, is hanging on to the first team job, but speedy sophs James Berry and Terry Daniels, two of the most heralded freshmen in the league in 1978, see plenty of playing time.

Fullback: Hubert Simpson started most of last season for Tennessee and averaged five yards per carry. Simpson is a breakaway threat, although also capable of plugging away on the short gainers.

Wingback: Speed is the key word here. Phil Ingram, a junior, has taken over the starting job, but freshman Willie Gault is in the picture and trackman Mike Miller is also seeing limited playing time. Although this is primarily a pass receiving position, the flanker can also be put into a position to run or pass the football.

DEFENSE

Tennessee's 5-2 defense, the same as Alabama's basic setup, appeared to be a veteran returning corps, but with the move of North to offense and injury and illness, some new faces have moved into the defense. Only two starters were lost to graduation, however.

Ends: Steve Davis (6-1, 219) is a senior returning starter who gets the job done without anyone really noticing. Brian Ingram is ahead at the other end spot.

Tackles: The loss of North to offense was expected, but the loss of Tennessee's other outstanding young defensive tackle Lee Otis Burton to hepatitis (probably headed for a redshirt season) obviously was not. He was first team last year as a freshman in Tennessee's late success. Brad White is one starter, while 6-5, 251-pound Kenny Jones, a top Bama prospect out of Nashville two years ago, is making his move.

Noseguard: Jim Noonan is an outstand-

ing football player who had been hampered by injury in the past. The bug seems to have hit again as Noonan has missed time with a muscle stress. In his stead redshirt freshman Craig Cantrell (6-1, 221) has taken over as the starter.

Linebacker: A traditionally strong Tennessee position, this year is no exception for the linebacker corps. Craig Puki was the Vols' leading tackler last year and is back in fine form his senior season. Chris Bolton, a 6-2, 214-pounder, has moved ahead of returning starter Danny Spradlin at the other spot.

Cornerbacks: A real strong point for the Vols is the secondary, where Roland James—considered Tennessee's best athlete—is back for his senior season. An outstanding track man, James was All-SEC last year. Danny Martin is the starter on the other side, but Wilbert Jones is seeing a lot of playing time.

Strong safety: Greg Gaines had to make a comeback from a knee injury, but he has done so in fine style. Seeing plenty of playing time behind him is soph Chevette Suttle.

Safety: Val Barksdale was a sensation as a freshman two years ago, then suffered through last season with an ankle injury. He, too, has regained his old speed and quickness and is an outstanding deep patrolman. Clark Duncan works behind him.

KICKING GAME

Always a Tennessee strong point, and again no exception this year is the Tennessee kicking game. Alan Duncan is an outstanding placekicker, soccer-style. He has great range and accuracy. Dale Schneitman averaged over 40 yards per punt last year, but has been beaten out for the punting job by John Warren.

It goes without saying that the return men are more than capable. Gary Moore, who returned the kickoff against Auburn, was a national leader in that department last year. Speedster Willie Gault joins him on kickoff returns and also handles punt return duties.

THE SERIES

Not only the South's most famous football rivalry, it is also recognized nationally as an outstanding series, the reason that it is so often picked as a television game. Bama currently holds a 31-23-7 lead in the series, the result of the eight straight wins in this decade. When the NCAA issued four commemorative paintings to celebrate the centenial of college football in 1969 it was no surprise that one of them was of Bama's Howell to Huston, against Tennessee. As a Crimson Tide coach remarked a few years ago, "the Alabama-Tennessee game is no place for children." ★

YOU'RE THE COACH

"You're the Coach" is designed to provide you with all the pertinent statistics necessary for an accurate evaluation of these two teams' strengths and weaknesses. Add the information in "You're the Coach" to the more specific information in the Scouting Report for a working knowledge of both teams' individual players and team characteristics.

1979 Cumulative Statistics

	BAMA	TENNESSEE
TEAM OFFENSE		
Rushes attempted	355	268
Yards gained	2016	1366
Yards lost	89	98
Net yards gained	1927	1268
Avg. gain per rush	5.4	4.7
Touchdowns	26	14
Passes attempted	54	100
Passes completed	26	54
Passes intercepted	3	9
Percentage	.481	.540
Total yards	383	831
Touchdowns	1	6
Passes caught	26	54
Total yards	383	831
Avg. gain per catch	14.7	15.4
Touchdowns	1	6
TEAM DEFENSE		
Rushes attempted	170	259
Yards gained	635	1261
Yards lost	170	185
Net yards gained	465	1076
Touchdowns	0	7
Passes attempted	92	96
Passes completed	37	43
Passes intercepted	14	10
Percentage	.402	.448
Total yards	342	536
Touchdowns	1	3
PUNTING		
Number	19	323
Yards	736	862
Avg.	38.7	37.5
Longest	70	51
FUMBLES/LOST	15/6	15/7
PENALTIES/ YARDS	17/146	23/239

INDIVIDUAL OFFENSE

Rushing	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Long
(BAMA) Shealy	46	307	6.7	6	64
(BAMA) Jacobs	34	273	8.0	1	73
(BAMA) Ogilvie	46	236	5.1	6	18
(BAMA) Hill	37	227	6.1	3	23
(VOLS) Streater	55	305	5.5	5	43
(VOLS) Moore	53	262	4.9	3	20
(VOLS) Berry	56	252	4.5	2	22
(VOLS) Simpson	38	228	6.0	1	31

Passing	PA	PC	PI	YDS	%	TD
(BAMA) Shealy	35	20	2	304	.571	1
(BAMA) Jacobs	14	5	1	66	.357	0
(VOLS) Streater	88	47	9	731	.534	6
(VOLS) Olszewski	11	6	0	98	.545	0

Receiving	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
(BAMA) Pugh	13	231	17.7	1
(BAMA) Clark	3	59	19.6	0
(VOLS) Hancock	15	284	18.9	2
(VOLS) Harper	11	147	13.4	3
(VOLS)P. Ingram	8	136	17.0	0

INDIVIDUAL DEFENSE

Tackles	Solo	Assisted	Total
(BAMA) Boyd	25	10	35
(BAMA) Scott	19	2	21
(BAMA) Braggs	18	3	21
(BAMA) Wilcox	14	6	20
(VOLS) Puki	44	19	63
(VOLS) Spradlin	28	15	43
(VOLS) White	27	8	35

Interceptions	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
(BAMA) McNeal	3	12	4.0	0
(BAMA) R. Jones	2	17	8.5	0
(BAMA) Wilcox	2	9	4.5	0
(BAMA) Bob Smith	2	0	0.0	0
(BAMA) Junior	1	59	59.0	1
(BAMA) 4 others	4	13	3.3	0
(VOLS) Barksdale	3	0	0.0	0
(VOLS) Martin	3	0	0.0	0

FRED SINGTON STILL RUNNING AT FULL THROTTLE

by Mike Bolton

It's not a coincidence that you never see a "What ever happened to" story about former Alabama great Fred Sington.

Anyone who hasn't spent the last 10 years in Siberia knows what Sington is doing.

The National Football Hall of Fame member always has more going than Santa Claus on Christmas eve.

The Birmingham sporting goods dealer who is closer to 70 than he would like to admit, has never let up since he starred at Phillips High School.

"I've tried to keep my foot in the door," Sington said recently. "All of my activities have kept my name alive through these years while some of the great names of the 28-29-30 teams have dropped from sight."

Sington came to Alabama in 1927 as a freshman footballer who also played in the band. Shoot, he got to make all the trips and even got a pair of tickets to each game. He was, and still is, economically minded.

At 230 pounds as a freshman, Sington was a "big young 'un" and his size made him a natural to play on the dummy squads for the varsity. Remembering those days brings back some funny stories for Sington.

"We always ran the plays that the team that played our varsity ran," Sington said. "Ten days prior to our varsity game with Georgia, we were playing the Georgia freshmen in Rome, Ga. We were tied 7-7 at the half and I told Coach Shorty Propst that our trouble was trying to run Alabama plays when we knew Georgia's better. We started running Georgia's plays in the second half and we won by three touchdowns."

Sington was and still is full of good ideas.

Sington remembers 128 freshmen coming in with him and only having 10

Fred Sington was admittedly "a big young 'un" when he arrived at the University of Alabama over half a century ago to begin his All-America football career. He was generally considered to be the best lineman in America his senior year, 1930, as Alabama won the Rose Bowl.

—University of Alabama photo

seniors on the squad four years later. Coach Wallace Wade took his toll on the players.

"I played in what I like to think was the Rose Bowl Era of Alabama football," Sington said. "Alabama went in 1925, 1926 and 1930. I was fortunate enough to go in 1930."

Fortunate is not the right word. Sington was generally considered the best lineman in the country in 1930 and Alabama was more than glad to have him along.

"I played defensive tackle and what was called the running or whipping guard," Sington said. "I was the second fastest on the team despite my size and I did the pulling and blocking.

"I remember having to play the whole game most of all," Sington recalls. "The rules then said if you came out in a half you couldn't go back in. I played defensive tackle and offensive guard and never got a rest."

Sington was good enough during those days to become mentioned in a song of the era. "Football Freddie" was sung by Rudy Vallee and he dedicated it to Sington.

Sington remembers Wade hearing it on the radio and going wild. Whenever Sington would line up at at a game or practice he would hear Wade singing "Football Freddie, rugged and tan, Football Freddie, collegiate man."

Sington's teams went 6-3 in 1928 and 1929 and went 10-0 in 1930. Alabama slaughtered Washington State 24-0 in that Rose Bowl.

Sington left Alabama after graduation and went with Wade to Duke just 15 days after the Tide downed Washington State. He stayed there four years before moving on. Sington, in the meantime, had signed a pro baseball contract with the Atlanta Crackers and spent his summers playing baseball.

He became a major leaguer for the Washington Senators in '34 and stayed there three seasons before being sold to Brooklyn. He played in Brooklyn under Leo Durocher. He was farmed down to Chattanooga in '38 and hit .385 and was named the Most Valuable Player in the Southern League.

While playing pro ball, Sington got involved with umpiring and refereeing and that was the course his life took for the next 15 years. He spent 1944 as the coach of the Navy's undefeated Boomers and saw his team beat some good college teams of the day, including the Air Force.

Sington was nominated and inducted into the collegiate football Hall of Fame in 1955 on the same card with Wade. The greatest national honor of the sport had come to two of the game's greatest. Sington and the Hall of Fame would later team up again.

Fred Sington is still active in the business, community, University of Alabama, and football scenes.

It was 1966 when Sington decided there should be a bowl for the best two college football teams in the country. He begged, pleaded and everything else to get the NCAA to let Birmingham have such a bowl, but his offer was always rejected. It was 11 years after his start when he finally got his hometown a bowl.

"We finally saw we weren't going to get our bowl," Sington said. "I talked with some of the Hall of Fame people and we agreed there should be a bowl with the Hall's name on it. We agreed to be partners on it and let the foundation have any profits from it.

"We went to the NCAA again. They voted and said they wanted us to have it. It was a great thrill."

When Sington talks bowl, he talks money and what it does.

"A bowl is a $4 million to $5 million enterprise," Sington said. "We figure on a conservative guess that every person that attends a bowl game spends at least $70, and I think that is a very conservative estimate.

"The guys that run the stadium, the gas pumpers, the restaurants, the merchants, the motels—that's all extra money in their pockets. But, to me, the main thing is having the dateline Birmingham streaming off of every story that leaves the press box. The main thing to me is the publicity for Birmingham."

Sington has been criticized for the teams he selects for his bowls. Many say the teams he brings in have no local interest. The experts say Sington is smartly riding out the storm for a major television contract.

"Getting a lucrative television contract and filling up your stadium is the name of the game," Sington said. "The NCAA asked us if we were going to be a Southern bowl and we told them if we could get Michigan and Notre Dame it would be fine. The stadium is up for grabs to those who back the game. We have no hangups."

Sington has been true to his word in the first two games as the teams have represented the Southwest, Big 10, Big 8 and Atlantic Coast conferences. Sington said this season he hoped it would be possible to get a good Southeastern team in the bowl.

"We want people to get used to the bowl," Sington said. "Our tickets are just $10 each and they aren't lower anywhere else. We want to get the bowl to be well-known.

"We changed the date this season to December 29th so that it is after Christmas. I think our dates before Christmas before hurt us. I think the whole thing will be better this year."

While you can't mention the name Fred Sington and forget football and the Hall of Fame bowl, his civic accomplishments in Birmingham can't be topped by anyone either. He serves on committees such as the Downtown Action Committee and other prestigious ventures.

Why hasn't a man run out of gas by 70 when he runs with the throttle wide open?

"I just like to get involved," Sington said. "I'm proud of my city, my University and my state. I don't mind working to get others to like it, too."

The University of Alabama is proud to say that Fred Sington is one of its boys.★

BAMA SCORECARD

Play Ball

When Alabama baseballers hit the field for their season opener in late February, the team will be made up of five players who could be spending their time in the professional ranks.

David Atkins, David Zitkus, Alan Melson, David Fowke, and Mike Murphy all said "no" to pro offers for a chance to further their educations and play for Alabama.

Atkins, a catcher who hit .295 last season as a junior, was drafted by the Milwaukee Brewers. The former Calhoun Junior College star played fantastic ball late in the season last year and finished up the season with a pair of home runs against Auburn.

Melson, one of numerous pitchers signed by new Alabama coach Barry Shollenberger and assistant Roger Smith, was drafted by Cincinnati, the team Shollenberger played for.

Melson was drafted last season while at Morgan County High School in Hartselle. The 6-0, 185-pound righthander has been clocked by the pros on radar at 87 m.p.h., which is pretty impressive for a high school pitcher.

Melson had a 7-1 record last season with an 0.38 ERA.

Outfielder David Fowke was drafted by the Yankees no less than twice in his junior college days at Manatee Junior College in Sarasota.

Fowke is a 5-9, 165-pound switch hitter and was considered the quickest player in the tough Florida junior college circuit.

Zitkus is another Tide pitcher signed by Shollenberger. He was drafted by the Minnesota Twins.

The lefthander compiled a 12-2 record at Lake County Junior College in the Chicago suburbs. He was 5-1 as a freshman and 7-1 as a sophomore and had five career shutouts. He had a 0.96 ERA, struck out 117 in 93 innings and gave up just 40 hits.

He was voted the MVP in his league his sophomore season.

Mike Murphy, another pitcher, was drafted last season by the Tigers. Murphy transferred last season and will have to sit out a year at Alabama.

Speaking of Alabama baseball, 5,000 new aluminum seats have been installed and will greet Alabama fans when the Tide season opens.

Other improvements at Thomas Field include new fences and a new public address system. Lights are on the agenda for the 1981 season.

Alabama players in fall practice have benefitted by a pair of new batting tunnels, a new pitching machine and a speed radar gun.

—MIKE BOLTON

David Atkins, a senior catcher who hit .295 for the Tide last year, chose the University of Alabama baseball program over a professional career two years ago. He's one of five Bama baseball players who have had a professional opportunity.

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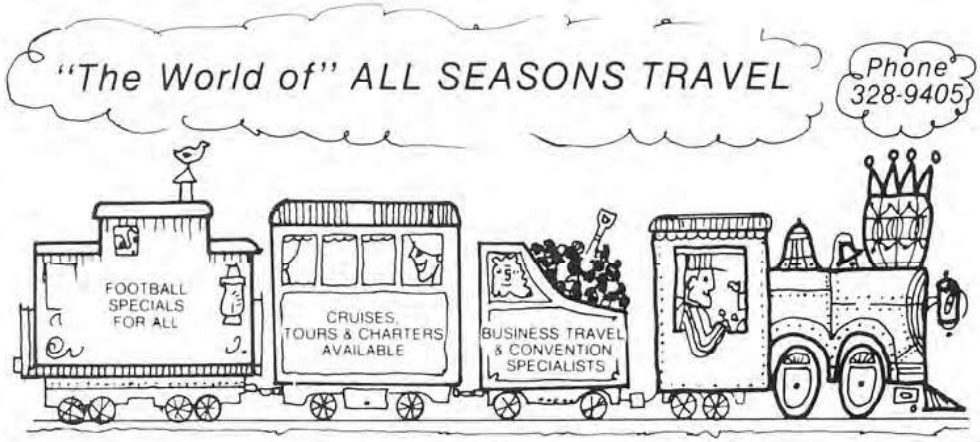
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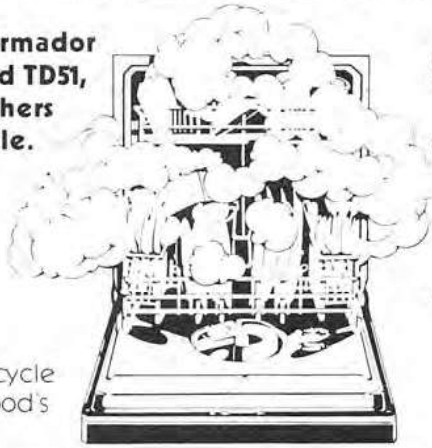

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AROUND THE LEAGUE

DATE	ALABAMA	AUBURN	FLORIDA	GEORGIA	KENTUCKY
Sept. 8	30 at Georgia Tech 6				
Sept. 15		26 KANSAS STATE 18	10 at Houston 14	21 WAKE FOREST 22	14 MIAMI (OH.) 15
Sept. 22	45 BAYLOR (B)* 0	31 S. MISS 9	7 GEORGIA TECH 7	7 at Clemson 12	10 at Indiana 18
Sept. 29	66 at Vanderbilt 3	17 at Tennessee 35	10 at Miss. State 24	20 S. CAROLINA 27	14 MARYLAND 7
Oct. 6	38 WICHITA STATE (T) 0	44 N.C. STATE 31	3 at LSU 20	24 at Ole Miss 21	6 at W. Virginia 10
Oct. 13	40 at Florida 0	52 VANDERBILT 35	0 ALABAMA 40	21 LSU 14	14 OLE MISS 3
Oct. 20	TENNESSEE (B)	at Georgia Tech		at Vanderbilt	at LSU
Oct. 27	VIRGINIA TECH (T)	at Wake Forest	TULSA	KENTUCKY	at Georgia
Nov. 3	MISSISSIPPI ST. (T)	FLORIDA	at Auburn	VIRGINIA	BOWLING GREEN
Nov. 10	at LSU	MISSISSIPPI ST	GEORGIA (J)**	at Florida (J)**	at Vanderbilt
Nov. 17	MIAMI (T)	at Georgia	KENTUCKY	AUBURN	at Florida
Nov. 24					TENNESSEE
Dec. 1	AUBURN (B)	ALABAMA (B)	at Miami	at Georgia Tech	

DATE	LSU	OLE MISS	MISS. STATE	TENNESSEE	VANDERBILT
Sept. 8			13 MEMPHIS ST. (J)# 14		
Sept. 15	44 at Colorado 0	38 at Memphis St. 34		28 at Boston College 16	13 at Indiana 44
Sept. 22	47 RICE 3	7 MISSOURI (J)¢ 33	14 at Maryland 35	51 UTAH 18	14 CITADEL 27
Sept. 29	12 SOUTHERN CAL 17	8 S. MISS (J) 38	24 FLORIDA (J) 10	35 AUBURN 17	3 ALABAMA 66
Oct. 6	20 FLORIDA 3	21 GEORGIA (O) 24	28 TENNESSEE (M) 9	9 at Miss. St. (M) 9	14 at Tulane 42
Oct. 13	14 at Georgia 21	3 at Kentucky 14	6 at Florida St. 17	31 GEORGIA TECH 0	35 at Auburn 52
Oct. 20	KENTUCKY	at S. Carolina	MARSHALL (S)	at Alabama (B)	GEORGIA
Oct. 27	FLORIDA STATE	VANDERBILT (O)	S. MISS. (S)		at Ole Miss (O)
Nov. 3	at Ole Miss	LSU (J)	at Alabama (T)	RUTGERS	MEMPHIS ST.
Nov. 10	ALABAMA	at Tulane	at Auburn	NOTRE DAME	KENTUCKY
Nov. 17	MISSISSIPPI ST.	TENNESSEE (J)	at LSU	at Ole Miss (J)	at Air Force
Nov. 24	at Tulane	at Miss. St. (J)	OLE MISS (J)	at Kentucky	
Dec. 1				VANDERBILT	at Tennessee

1979 STANDINGS	Conference	Overall
Alabama	2-0-0	5-0-0
Georgia	2-0-0	2-3-0
Mississippi State	2-0-0	2-3-0
Kentucky	1-0-0	2-3-0
Auburn	1-1-0	4-1-0
LSU	1-1-0	3-2-0
Tennessee	1-1-0	4-1-0
Ole Miss	0-2-0	1-4-0
Vanderbilt	0-2-0	0-5-0
Florida	0-3-0	0-4-1

*Alabama home games are played at Birmingham or Tuscaloosa
**At Jacksonville
¢Ole Miss home games are played at Jackson or Oxford
#Mississippi State home games are played at Jackson, Starkville or Memphis

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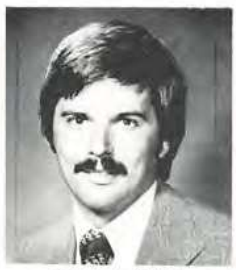

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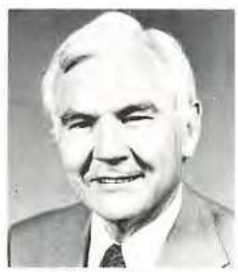

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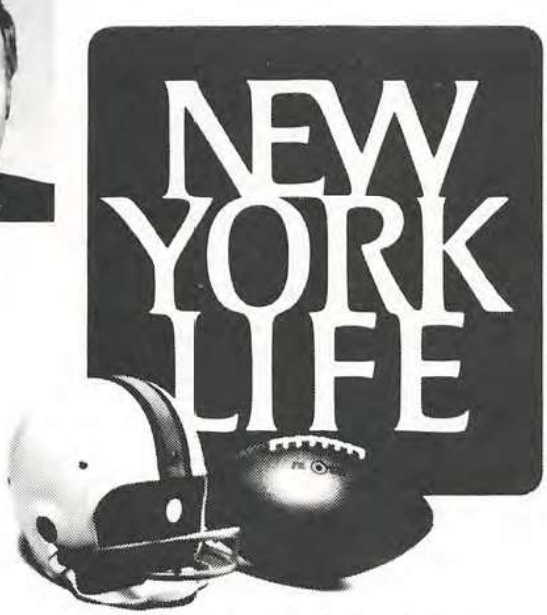

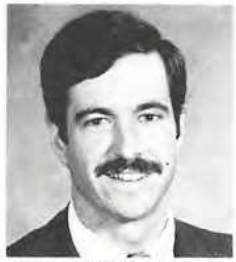

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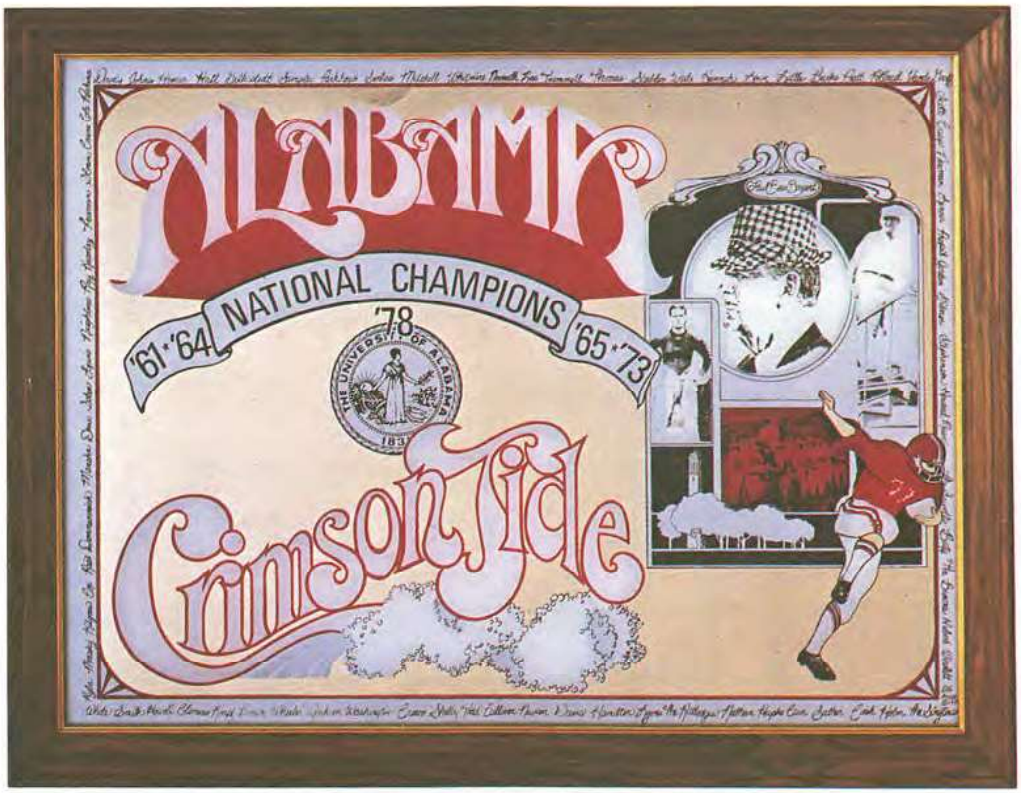

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